

BUSH LAKE - A TRUE TREASURE  
TOP NOTCH BEACH ENJOYS BUSIEST SEASON IN YEARS

ON AVERAGE, BUSH LAKE BEACH SEES more than 100,000 visitors per year and this year was no exception. Yet, as beach attendance skyrocketed, bacteria counts dropped significantly, thanks to an innovative new treatment employed by the City.

Staff efforts have significantly improved bacterial water quality at the beach, *see chart below*.

“Since 2005, we have periodically treated a swath of beach sand along the water’s edge with a diluted concentration of chlorinated water. Since 2006, we have focused on deterring gulls and geese with Mylar fencing and the help of a resident volunteer,” said Environmental Health Program Coordinator Jeff Luedeman. “We started this project to improve bacterial water quality, protect

beach users and prevent unnecessary beach closures.”

The project has been so successful that the City was asked to present its findings at the Minnesota Environmental Health Association’s annual meeting and the National Environmental Health Association’s annual education conference. The presentations focused on the successful impact of the chlorine treatments and Mylar fencing on water-borne bacterial since 2003.

Although experimental treatments may help keep bacteria levels low, one of the biggest risks of waterborne illness is from other beach users. The City continues to educate the public on proper hygiene and other health practices, which can help maintain a healthy beach environment.

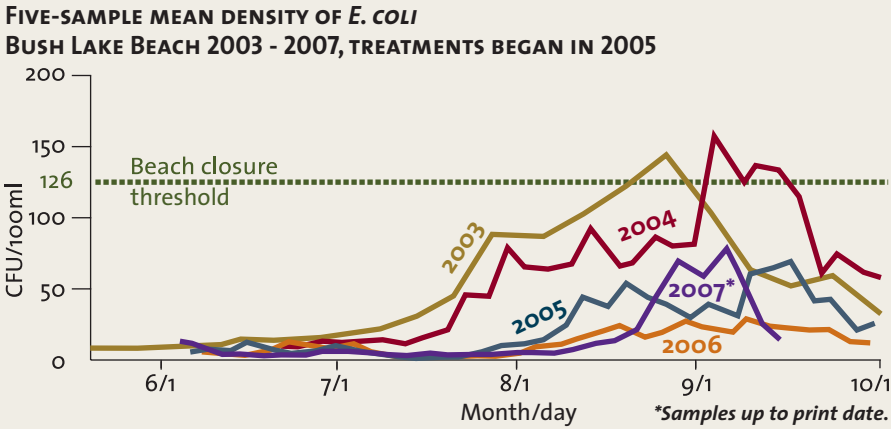


Weather, water temperature and bird presence also cause bacteria levels to rise. Park Maintenance is continuously working to control the goose and gull population at the beach.

For more information, call Jeff Luedeman at 952-563-8977.

BUSH LAKE EARNS TOP HONORS FROM METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
ONE OF THE “10 BEST” IN WATER QUALITY

The Metropolitan Council recently released its 2006 *Lake Water Quality Summary Report*, which provides a summary of monitoring methods, results and lake grading information. More than 200 sites on 186 Twin Cities metro area lakes were monitored by Metropolitan Council staff and volunteers. Of these 200 sites, Bush Lake was one of the 10 best, receiving a grade A for overall water quality.



HEALTHY AND HAPPY LIFESTYLES

PROMOTING FOOD SAFETY IN OUR CITY  
BLOOMINGTON FOOD COLLABORATIVE

IN ORDER TO PROMOTE FOOD SAFETY, Environmental Health has organized quarterly meetings to share information with chefs, food service and grocery store managers, school cooks, quality assurance consultants and hotel managers.

Throughout the year, the City’s food inspectors present and lead discussions on emerging food safety issues. Participants are encouraged to ask questions on food safety and sanitation requirements in a risk-free setting. Food-borne illnesses, effective pest control, what inspectors look for during routine

inspections and irradiated beef are just a few of the topics covered.

The key to the success of the collaborative is the development of positive, professional working relationships. Through education and communication, the City is able to improve food safety for everyone.

The highlight of the year is the Food Safety Awards, presented at the annual Diamond Service Awards – the Academy Awards of Bloomington’s food service industry. Receiving an award is a sign of pride and commitment to food safety.



The Sheraton Hotel and Applebee’s at Southtown took top honors in 2007.

“Kitchen Manager Marc Salsbury and I are very proud and honored, especially in Bloomington where standards for food safety and sanitation are so high,” said Applebee’s Manager Jon Lawler.

For more information, call Environmental Health Manager Lynn Moore at 952-563-8970.

MINNESOTA FREEDOM TO BREATHE  
STATEWIDE SMOKING BAN



ON OCTOBER 1, Minnesota Freedom to Breathe went into effect. This new statewide law prohibits smoking in all indoor public places and places of employment. Cities and counties are permitted to have stricter ordinances than the state law, but they cannot be less stringent.

Bloomington’s ordinance, which was passed in 2004, prohibits smoking in workplaces and public places. In addition, it prohibits smoking within 25 feet of entrances and exits, and requires that at least one-half of the seating capacity of outdoor restaurant patios be designated as non-smoking areas.

The City Council reviewed the Bloomington ordinance at a study meeting in September to determine what changes to the ordinance will be required to comply with the new state law. A public hearing will be held on any proposed changes on Monday, October 8.

For more information, call Environmental Health Manager Lynn Moore at 952-563-8970 or Environmental Health Coordinator Mark Stangenes at 952-563-8980 or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Smokefree.

BLOOMINGTON BUSINESS IS ON THE MOVE  
EMPLOYEES DISCOVER WALKING HELPS BUILD MORALE AND INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY

“WHEN I GET BACK TO WORK I FEEL refreshed and can accomplish more,” is just one of the praises employees of Alternative Billing Solutions (ABS), a CareCentric Company, are giving to a new office practice of daily walking. Employees also find it improves morale.



More than half of the employees (16 out of 26) at ABS have joined On the Move, a community program that encourages people to be more active, sponsored by Bloomington Public Health and Parks and Recreation. As a result, they are devoting 30 minutes a day to walking around the large parking lot surrounding their building.

Ironically, this practice didn’t start out as a plan to improve office productivity. It just happened as a result of walking.

“I am not surprised by the experience of ABS’s walking program; walking does amazing things,” said

Bloomington Public Health’s Joan Bulfer, organizer of On the Move. “The program encourages an active lifestyle in a social setting. With support from others it is easier to start exercising and make it a part of your life.”

The list of benefits from walking is extensive. In just 30 minutes per day, five to seven days per week, most people will experience more energy, feelings of well-being, reduced stress, a stronger heart, better sleep, appetite control and toned muscles.

For more information, call Health Specialist Joan Bulfer at 952-563-8992.